

Capsule Summary
SM-425
Wicomico Fields
Maddox vicinity
Private

Circa 1880

Wicomico Fields is significant as an example of a late nineteenth century farm house which retains most of its original outbuildings intact. The house itself is in a poor state of repair. Pre-dating the house is an old tobacco barn located on the western edge of the property. Built around the mid-nineteenth century, one of the barn's most interesting features are its wooden hinged doors.

The dwelling house at Wicomico Fields was probably built by the Carpenter family who purchased the tract in 1880. The Swann family acquired the property in 1944 and farmed tobacco here until 1967. Although the land continues to be planted with both grains and tobacco, the house is now a rental property.

SM-425, Wicomico Fields
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture
Agriculture

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence/Farm

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-425

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Wicomico Fields

2. Location

street & number West Side Route 238 ☐ not for publication

city, town Maddox ☒ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mark E. Grace Jr.

street & number 3941 Lower Marlboro Rd telephone no.: (301)855-7753

city, town Owings state and zip code Md 20736

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber MRB 343

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 244

city, town Leonardtown state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-425

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 14

Wicomico Fields is located on the west side of Route 238 near Maddox in St. Mary's County. The house is surrounded by cultivated grain and tobacco fields on the south and east and by a stand of trees on the north side. A cement sidewalk imprinted with the date "1935" extends to the east from the central door of the east elevation. Fourteen outbuildings stand on the west side of the house. Most of these structures border a farm road which runs from Route 238 to a site southwest of the house where four tobacco barns are located. Wicomico Fields faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Constructed in the 1890s, Wicomico Fields is a two-story, five bay, frame structure with a center hall, single pile plan. A wing which extends to the west forms an ell with the main block of the house. The foundation consists of brick and concrete. The house is sheathed with asbestos shingle siding and roofed with metal.

The east (main) elevation is pierced by a central partially glazed entrance door flanked on either side by a pair of two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds which have a beaded border. A porch, formerly screened, extends across the first floor of the house. The porch is supported by square posts. Its wood floor and wainscoted ceiling remain intact. The second floor is lit by five two-over-two sash windows with wide surrounds and beaded moldings. Shutters, consisting of three narrow boards joined by a horizontal batten, flank the windows. The roofline is finished with a plain freize board. A central gable projects above roofline which is lit by a four-pane, diamond window.

The south elevation of the main block is lit on the first and second floors by one two-over-two sash window. This gable end is finished with cornice returns. A five-bay wing extends to the rear of the main block. The first floor of this wing is covered by a shed roof addition, probably an enclosed porch. This addition is pierced by a pair of one-over-one sash windows, a partially glazed entrance door, and one six-over-six sash window. The second floor is lit by five six-over-six sash windows with wide, plain surrounds. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline at the junction of the wing and main block.

The west elevation of the main block is lit on the first floor by one two-over-two sash window with wide surrounds. The second floor is lit by two of these windows, and the roofline is finished with a plain freize board. The gable end of the western wing has a shed roof addition across its first floor which is pierced on the west end by a pair of one-over-one sash windows and on the south by a partially glazed door. The second floor is blind. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof ridgeline of the wing's

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-425

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates None Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Wicomico Fields is significant as an example of a late nineteenth century farm house which retains most of its original outbuildings intact. The house itself is in a poor state of repair. Pre-dating the house is an old tobacco barn located on the western edge of the property. Built around the mid-nineteenth century, one of the barn's most interesting features are its wooden hinged doors.

The dwelling house at Wicomico Fields was probably built by the Carpenter family who purchased the tract in 1880. The Swann family acquired the property in 1944 and farmed tobacco here until 1967. Although the land continues to be planted with both grains and tobacco, the house is now a rental property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-425

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The five acres surrounding the house and including the outbuildings.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ

date April 1994

street & number None

telephone None

city or town Leonardtown

state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

SM-425, Wicomico Fields
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

western end.

The north elevation of the west wing is lit on the first floor by two two-over-two sash windows and two six-over-six sash windows, all with wide surrounds. The second floor is lit by five six-over-six sash windows with wide surrounds. The gable end of the main block is lit by one two-over-two sash window on both the first and second floors and is finished with cornice returns.

The interior was not seen.

Fourteen outbuildings are located behind the house. To the north stands a smokehouse. This gable roof structure faces south with a door on its south side. Sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with metal, the smokehouse stands on brick piers. A window pierces the east wall. The smokehouse has a dirt floor and the interior walls are blackened with soot.

Closer to the house stands a small shed roof structure which has been used for furnace curing tobacco. Sheathed with board and batten siding and roofed with metal, a door and two windows are located on the building's south side. A common bond brick chimney is located on the north side of the house. The interior of the building has a wood floor and a hole for a stove stack against the north wall.

Closest to the house on the north side stands a gable roof building sheathed with weatherboard siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. The current resident recalls that this structure was used for the storage of potatoes at one time.

Located directly behind the house is a gable roof building sheathed with weatherboards and roofed with metal. A former meathouse, hooks still hang from the interior ceiling of this building.

Southwest of the house stand a frame garage, a livestock barn, three tobacco barns, a tenant building, a granary, and three other gable roof outbuildings.

An unpaved road which extends from Route 238 west towards the Wicomico Fields dwelling house, then south past the outbuildings, and west again towards the Wicomico River leads to a cluster of three tobacco barns. The oldest of these barns is rectangular in form, measuring about 24' wide by 48' long with a 16' shed on the south elevation. The barn has a steeply pitched gable roof covered with seamed metal. The exterior is sheathed with vertical board siding and shets of corrugated metal.

The organizational plan of the barn consists of a four foot room system. Three principal openings provide access to the barn.

SM-425, Wicomico Fields
St. Mary's County
7.2 Description

The barn rests on sections of a continuous stone foundation and brick piers which support continuous sills. These sills are hewn on at least one side and sash or circular sawn on the other sides. They are joined with pegged mortise and tenon joints. Some of the sills have clearly been salvaged from other structures for use in the barn. The framing system consists of hewn and pit sawn posts on nine foot centers. The posts are attached to the sill and top plate with pegged mortise and tenon joints. Some are reinforced with mature, machine cut nails. Although there are no studs, each corner post is reinforced with two down braces.

The roof is a common rafter roof on four-foot centers supported by a flat false plate. Collars on each rafter pair have been added in order to make additional space for the hanging of tobacco.

The system used to hang tobacco consists of horizontal tier pole supports mortise and tenoned to the interior walls of the barn. Intermediate tier pole supports extend longitudinally down the central axis of the barn. These supports consist of poles with holes bored through them at each tier pole level. Tier poles extend horizontally in transverse rows across the interior space of the barn, with one end resting on the horizontal tier pole support and the opposite end resting in the hole of the intermediate tier pole support.

The shed on the barn's south elevation is organized on the same bay system as the main block. The shed is supported by a series of skinned poles and sawn posts which rest on the ground. These posts support a top plate on which the flat false plate and sawn rafters rest.

Horizontal tier pole supports extend across the exterior wall of the shed. These supports are half lapped and nailed to the principal posts. Tier poles extend across the width of the shed, resting on the horizontal tier pole supports of the main block and those of the shed exterior wall.

The main block of the barn and the east and west sections of the shed are sheathed with vertical siding consisting of circular sawn, random width, 1" planking. It is unclear whether vertical siding has always sheathed the barn. The interior wall of the barn between the main block and shed is sheathed with widely space, 3" wide, circular sawn boards. The south wall of the shed is sheathed with vertical board siding which extends only three to four feet from the top plate.

Hinged double doors open outwards on both the north and south longitudinal elevations. The principal sill runs continuous across the south elevation door, but has been cut out across the north elevation door. The northern door opening measures 9'7" in width by 13" in height, while the southern door measures 9'7" in width by 10.5'

SM-425, Wicomico Fields
St. Mary's County
7.3 Description

in height. Only one door survives at the north elevation opening, consisting of circular sawn vertical boards with horizontal and diagonal battens. The door is held in place by a machine made metal hinge. The double doors across the south elevation consist of circular sawn vertical boards with horizontal and diagonal battens. The battens are secured with wrought nails. These doors are hung on wooden strap hinges. The hinge itself is attached to the door jamb with wooden pegs and mature machine cut nails.

Alterations to the barn include the replacement of some of the pit-sawn principal posts with circular sawn posts. The bottom section of almost all of the intermediate tier pole supports have rotted out and been replaced by sections of equally sized poles.

A slightly shorter, gable roof addition to the barn was added to its east elevation at a later date. This addition is rectangular in form, measuring about 20' by 52' with a 12' shed. It is sheathed with vertical board siding and roofed with metal.

SM-425, Wicomico Fields
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Mark E. Grace Jr.
FROM: Mark E. Grace Sr.
RECORD: Calvert County Testamentary Records, Estate 4146.
DATE:
NOTES:

TO: Mark E. Grace
FROM: Mark E. Grace, by Mark Ellis Grace Jr. and Mary M. Grace
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 343, folio 244.
DATE: March 31, 1987.
NOTES: Transfer of 229 acres.

TO: Mark E. Grace and Mary K. Grace
FROM: Francis Gwynn Swann and Julia Loretto Swann
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRF 137, folio 25.
DATE: September 28, 1967.
NOTES: Transfer of 1.) a portion of "Wicomico Fields" same as CBG 16/249
2.) 3 acres in CBG 50/522 3.) 12 acre portion in southwest corner of farm.
In total, the conveyance includes 229 acres of land with a five acre allotment reserved together with sufficient tobacco sticks to care for 5 acres of tobacco, the remainder of the sticks to go with the farm.

TO: Francis Gwinn Swann and Julia Loretto Swann
FROM: Frank D. Swann and Fannie G. Swann
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 16, folio 249.
DATE: July 20, 1944.
NOTES: Transfer of a portion of Wicomico Fields, being the same as EBA 15/370.
The conveyance is 244 acres.

TO: Frank D. Swann
FROM: Arthur D. Carpenter, Flora B. Carpenter, Newton F. Carpenter, Alva S. Carpenter, Sidney C. Britton, John Britton
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 15, folio 370.
DATE: September 16, 1916.
NOTES: Transfer of 289 acres of Wicomico Fields, the same of which Mary A. S. Carpenter died possessed. Price: \$6500.

TO: Walter Raymond Carpenter, Lola Mary Young, Laura M. Tappan, Sidney C. Britton, Arthur D. Carpenter, Newton Ford Carpenter, Sidney C. Carpenter, heirs of Mary A. S. Carpenter.

SM-425, Wicomico Fields
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

FROM: Mary A. S. Carpenter
RECORD:
DATE: February 27, 1905.
NOTES: Mary Carpenter died intestate.

TO: Mary A. L. Carpenter
FROM: J. Walter Carpenter
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 5, folio 315.
DATE: July 30, 1881.
NOTES: Transfer of 289 acres of Wicomico Fields being the same devised to George R. Garner by will of Catharine A. Garner.

TO: J. Walter Carpenter
FROM: George R. Garner
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 4, folio 263.
DATE: August 17, 1880.
NOTES: Transfer of 289 acres of Wicomico Fields. Price: \$4000

TO: George R. Garner
FROM: Catharine A. Garner
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber JTMR 1, folio 443.
DATE: September 2, 1877.
NOTES: "...I devise all the rest and residue of my estate to George Reeder Garner."

TO: Catharine A. Garner
FROM: Maria R. Garner
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 6, folio 367.
DATE: September 10, 1873.
NOTES: Transfer of 289 acres of Wicomico Fields. Price: \$3000.

TO: Mariah R. Garner
FROM: Catharine A. Garner
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 5, folio 222.
DATE: November 30, 1870.
NOTES: Transfer of 289 acres of Wicomico Fields.

TO: Catharine A. Garner
FROM: Frederick Stone and David S. Briscoe, Trustees for James Richard Thomas.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 4, folio 246.
DATE: March 24, 1870.
NOTES: Transfer of 289 acres of Wicomico Fields. Public sale of property on June 6, 1867 by order of Circuit Court for the insolvent J. R. Thomas. Price: \$4600.

SM-425

Wicomico Fields
Maddox Vicinity
Rock Point

CHAPTICO

BA 1

Indiantown
Cove

Bankhead Pt

Bankhead
Cove

Hayden Pt

Hayden
Cove

Conouch Pt

Bassfield Creek

Mills Pt

Maddox Pt

ROCK POINT, MD.

38076 07 TB 024

1943

PHOTOGRAPHED 1943

BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982

ONLY DATA IN 24 SERIES 7-2



Q1 8.15 Mon 8.15.1

• Mary's journey LTD

Elizabeth Hughes

Mar 1994

MD SAPP

East Elevation

1/5



SM-425 Wisconsin Field

St. Mary's County, MD

Elizabeth Morgan

May 1944

MD 412

NE elevation of road - 200

2/5



SM-425 Wilcomico Fields

St. Mary's County, MD

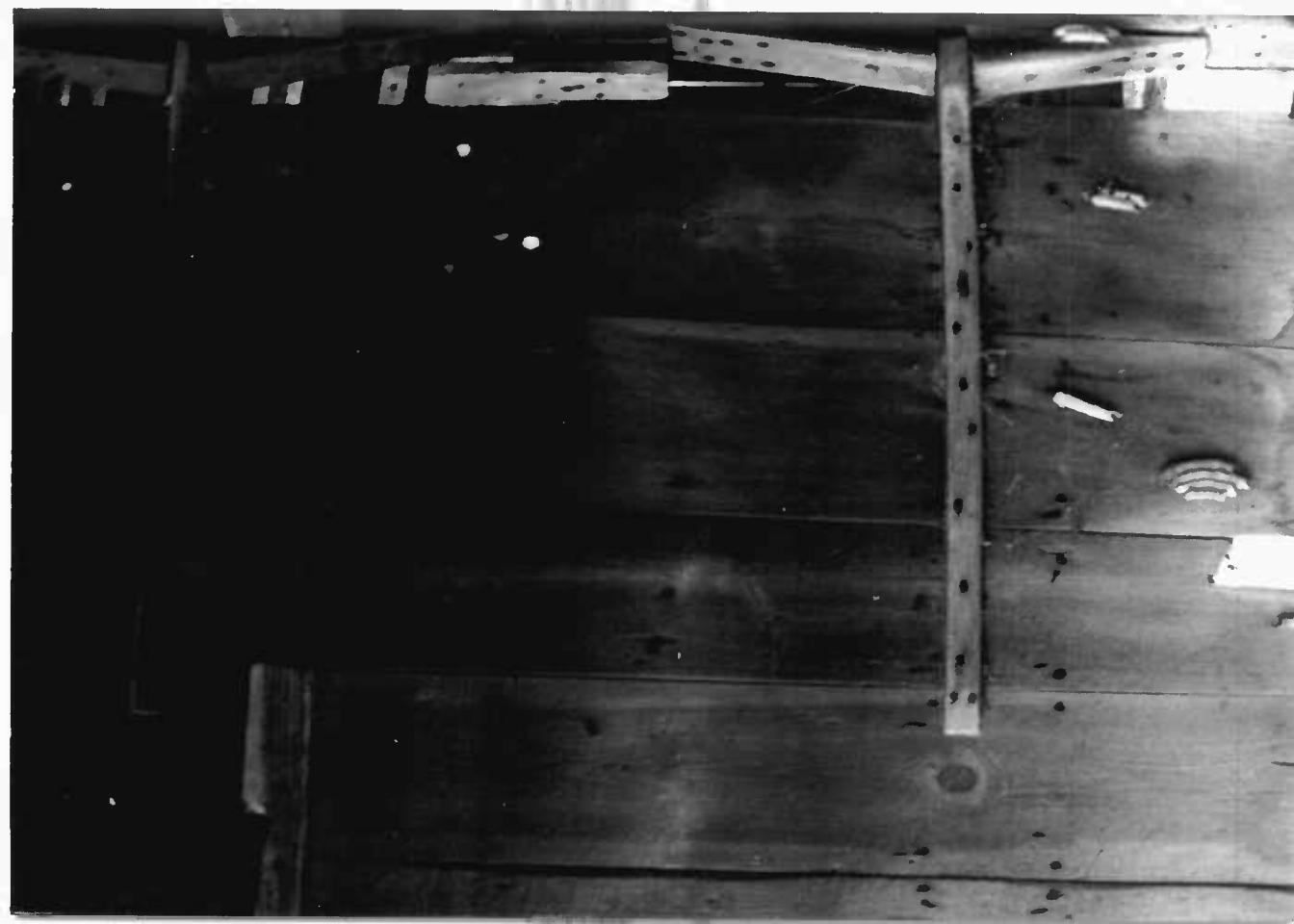
Elizabeth Hays

May 1934

MD SHPS

1. Abandonment of land

75



SM-425 Wooden Box - Flat

11. Box - Wooden Box

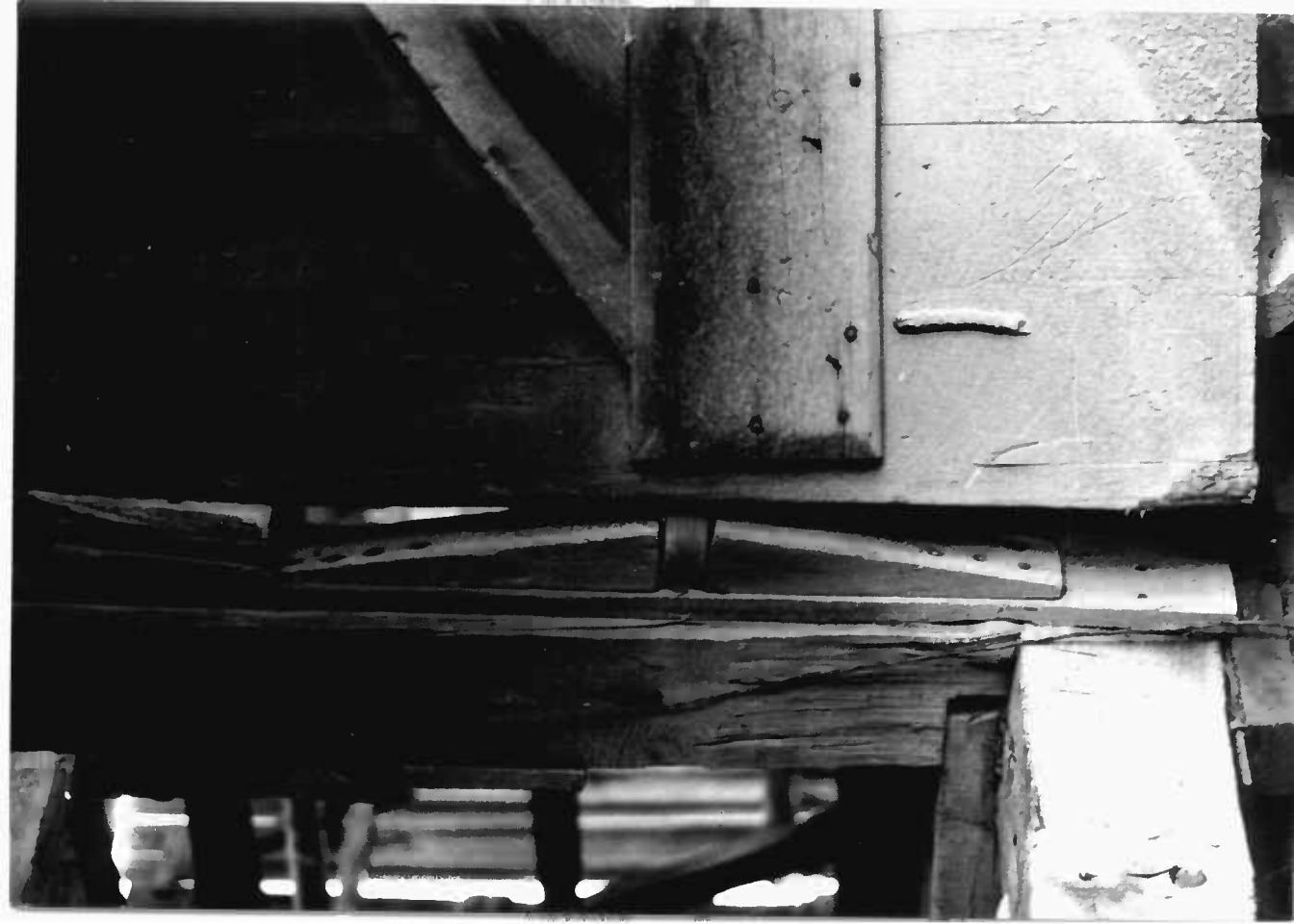
Elizabeth Hughes

Box with

MD 1002

wooden interior - wooden door hinge

1/5



SM- 425 Wilcomico Fields

St. Mary's County, MD

Elizabeth Hughes

May 1994

MD SHPD

Tobacco barn interior - window for view

5/5